

The Administration has been working to help create an international regime aimed at stopping the trade in conflict diamonds. Initiated by a group of African nations, the Kimberly process has the support of a diverse group of non-governmental organizations and the diamond industry.

In March 2002, the last full session of the Kimberly process was completed and has now reached a point where the individual countries involved need to pass implementing legislation. In the United States, some modest legislation may be enacted before the end of this year.

While I am glad that Congress may pass something on conflict diamonds this year, there must be a serious effort next year to get stronger legislation signed into law.

Senator DURBIN has introduced important implementing legislation, and he is working with the administration, a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senators DEWINE and BINGAMAN, and a range of non-governmental organizations such as Oxfam and Catholic Relief Services to come up with effective legislation that we can all support.

I am encouraged that the administration is consulting with Congress and has named Ambassador Bindenagle, a career diplomat with experience in complex negotiations, to lead this effort.

But, there must be more than an exchange of views on this issue. The administration must also seriously consider Congressional proposals to move beyond the Kimberly process.

For example, a major flaw in the Kimberly process is that it does not cover polished diamonds. This is important for two reasons. Polished diamonds contribute significantly to the problems associated with the illicit trade in diamonds, and the United States is far and away the world's largest market for these types of diamonds. Clearly, this is an area where the United States needs to show leadership.

As chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I will do what I can to ensure that resources are available for developing countries that want to enhance their capacity to implement Kimberly.

I look forward to working with the administration to make substantial progress on this issue next year. It will not be easy, but it can be done.

DRIVER'S LICENSE FRAUD PREVENTION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have joined Senator DURBIN in introducing the Driver's License Fraud Prevention Act.

Today's patchwork of State laws, regulations, and procedures for the issuance of driver's licenses makes it all too easy for problem drivers and criminals to obtain multiple licenses to hide traffic convictions and other criminal activity. The extent of the

problem became painfully clear following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, when we learned that a number of the terrorists had obtained State-issued driver's licenses or identification cards using fraudulent documents.

Almost half the States have taken action since the terrorist attacks to tighten licensing procedures and I am encouraged that the National Governors Association has formed a homeland security task force that, among other things, will be working to determine the best way for States to strengthen their driver's license standards and authority. However, Senator DURBIN and I believe there is a legitimate role for the Federal Government to play in leading and coordinating State efforts to improve driver's license security. In addition, because of the estimated costs and coordination required to improve driver's license security, the States cannot resolve the issue on their own.

The proposal we introduced would require the Department of Transportation, DOT, to work in consultation with the States to establish minimum standards for proof of identity by driver's license applicants. Currently, personnel in departments of motor vehicles are called upon to perform the difficult task of verifying numerous different types of birth certificates, licenses from other States, proof of residency, and other documents. Only 18 States verify an applicant's social security number with the Social Security Administration and there is no system today to verify the validity of a driver's license being surrendered to obtain a license in another State.

This legislation would also require DOT, in consultation with the States, to establish minimum standards for the license itself to make it more tamper-proof and less susceptible to counterfeiting. DOT would also be directed to complete a study of the feasibility, costs, benefits and impact on personal privacy of using a biometric identifier on driver's licenses. The intent is not to create a national driver's license or identification card, but to improve the security of State-issued licenses through the use of digital photographs, holograms and other devices.

In addition, the bill would use the existing database for commercial motor vehicle drivers as the platform for creating a driver record information system on all licensed drivers. The new system, like the current one, would be a pointer system to State records, rather than a national database of information on drivers. It is this new system that would help States verify the validity of licenses previously held, determine whether an individual holds more than one license, and provide information on the individual's driving record. Further, the bill would prohibit the disclosure or display of an individual's social security number of a driver's license, increase criminal penalties for fraudulently issuing, obtaining or

facilitating the issuance of fraudulent licenses, and call for the timely posting of convictions incurred in any State on the driver's license.

Driver's licenses are used by minors to purchase alcohol and cigarettes, by criminals involved in identity theft, and for many other illegal purposes. Improving the security of the license is a matter of common sense.

I am confident that this legislation will provoke meaningful and lively debate, as well as more ideas about how to approach driver's license security. It may not be possible, given the press of other business, for the bill to be passed this year. Nevertheless, this proposal will provide a foundation for discussion and deliberations next year as we work to reauthorize the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA-21.

REMEMBERING CHARLES GUGGENHEIM

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President. Let me first ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD "The Filmmaker Who Told America's Story" by Phil McCombs that appeared in the Washington Post last week.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Washington Post, Oct. 10, 2002]

THE FILMMAKER WHO TOLD AMERICA'S STORY
(By Phil McCombs)

He raced against death, and won.

Oh, how Charles Guggenheim would have not liked putting it so directly!

The great film documentarian, who died at Georgetown University Hospital yesterday of pancreatic cancer at 78, left a life's work of subtle, passionate cinematic hymns to what he called, in a last message to friends, "the essential American journey."

His final film, finished just weeks ago, limns a shocking episode of that journey—the "selection" by Nazis of 350 U.S. troops captured in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 for deportation to a concentration camp because they were Jews or "looked Jewish."

Guggenheim, the son of a well-to-do German Jewish furniture merchant in Cincinnati, easily might have been one of them. His unit was decimated in the battle, but he'd been left behind in the States with a life-threatening infection.

For more than half a century, as hints and incomplete versions of the story surfaced, it gnawed at him. A few years ago, he began searching for survivors—and found them.

Early this year, just as Guggenheim was working on the "death march" sequence, his cancer was diagnosed.

For the next six months, he'd work all week on the film, have chemotherapy on Friday, sleep through the weekend and be back on the job Monday.

A few weeks ago, as he and his daughter, Grace—producer of this and many of his films—were "mixing" the final version, he began suffering painful attacks. The cancer had invaded his stomach.

"He'd have to lie on the couch while we worked," Grace Guggenheim recalled.

By then, her father was thin and drawn—not unlike his former comrades after they were liberated by U.S. forces following months of slave labor in a satellite camp of Buchenwald.

"Does it occur to you," Guggenheim's old friend, historian David McCullough, asked